United Nations A/C.1/50/PV.2

General Assembly
Fiftieth Session

Official Records

First Committee

2nd Meeting
Thursday, 12 October 1995, 10 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Erdenechuluun . . . . . (Mongolia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Statement by the Chairman

The Chairman: I should like at the outset to extend a warm welcome to all delegations participating in the First Committee at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. I also take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to all Member States for the honour and privilege they have conferred upon me and my country by electing me as Chairman of this body at the current session. I am deeply indebted to all of you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

Allow me also to say how much I appreciate the generous words spoken by the representative of Ecuador, Ambassador Luis Valencia Rodriguez, when he nominated me to the post of Chairman of the First Committee. I should like to express on behalf of the entire membership of the Committee, as well as on my own behalf, our congratulations to Ambassador Valencia Rodríguez for the skilful and effective manner in which he presided over our proceedings at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

As I undertake my responsibilities, it is gratifying for me to know that I can count on the cooperation of all members of the Committee as well as on the valuable experience and profound knowledge of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Marrack Goulding; the Director of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Prvoslav Davinić; and the Secretary of the First Committee, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, and his colleagues in the Secretariat, who will contribute to the successful completion of our work.

For my part, in keeping with the trust you have placed in me, I intend to discharge my duty with the firm determination to ensure that our work is conducted efficiently and that our endeavours meet with success.

Election of the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur

The Chairman: I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the decision of the General Assembly taken at its 1935th meeting on 22 September 1971, concerning the procedure regarding the election of officers of the Main Committees. By the terms of that decision, nominations of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should immediately proceed to the election. The Committee will follow that procedure today.

Mr. Wrabetz (Austria): Mr. Chairman, first of all, I should like to convey to you our congratulations on your election to guide the First Committee of the General Assembly, and I should like to assure you of the full cooperation of the Austrian delegation.

At the same time, I should like to convey to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Luis Valencia Rodríguez, my sincere appreciation of his great efforts and his outstanding role in guiding the work of the First Committee of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

I should like to convey to the Committee, on behalf of its Vice-Chairman at the last session, Mr. Thomas Stelzer, his sincere appreciation of the cooperation and support he received during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

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This record contains the original texts of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

It is now my honour to propose the candidacy of His Excellency Mr. Antonio de Icaza of Mexico for the post of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. Ambassador de Icaza is a distinguished diplomat. His outstanding experience and his diplomatic skills are widely known and appreciated. His former assignments included posts as Ambassador to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Egypt, Brazil and Venezuela, and he served as Deputy Foreign Minister of his country, Mexico. In 1995 Mr. de Icaza assumed his current position as Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

It is my sincere conviction that because of his past experience and diplomatic skills, Ambassador de Icaza will be an excellent Vice-Chairman of the First Committee, and I therefore propose that Ambassador de Icaza be elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The Chairman: I thank the representative of Austria for his statement nominating Ambassador Antonio de Icaza of Mexico for the post of Vice-Chairman. I wish to convey, through him, the Committee's sincere appreciation to Mr. Thomas Stelzer for his valuable contribution to the work of the First Committee in his capacity as Vice-Chairman at the forty-ninth session.

There being no other nomination, I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and declare Ambassador Antonio de Icaza of Mexico elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The Chairman: I wish to convey to Ambassador Antonio de Icaza, through the representative of Mexico, my warmest congratulations on the distinction that has been conferred upon him and to assure him of my confidence that we shall cooperate in a harmonious manner so that we can jointly discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon us.

I now call upon the representative of Japan.

Mr. Ogawa (Japan): At the outset, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your well-deserved election to the chairmanship of this important Committee. The congratulations of the delegation of Japan will be extended to you at an appropriate time in the course of the current session.

On behalf of Ambassador Tanaka, Vice-Chairman of the First Committee during its forty-ninth session, I am pleased and honoured to nominate Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany for the post of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. I wish to refer briefly to his long diplomatic career. After entering the German Foreign Service, Ambassador Hoffmann served in many posts overseas, including posts in New York, Ankara, Vienna and London, and in 1993 he assumed the post of head of the German delegation to the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva. In his present function as head of the German delegation he has presided over many important committees relating to various disarmament issues.

My delegation is fully convinced that Ambassador Hoffmann's extensive experience will make an essential contribution to the success of our work at this memorable session of the General Assembly. I would therefore recommend to the Committee his election as a Vice-Chairman of the First Committee at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly by acclamation.

The Chairman: I thank the representative of Japan for his statement nominating Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany for a post of Vice-Chairman. Through him, I wish to convey to Ambassador Yoshitomo Tanaka the Committee's appreciation for the distinction with which he carried out his duties and for his valuable contribution to the work of the Committee last year as Vice-Chairman.

There being no other nomination, I shall take it that in this instance also the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The Chairman: I wish to express my warmest congratulations to Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann on his election as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee and assure him of my confidence that we shall jointly discharge the important responsibilities incumbent upon us.

I now call upon the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Bergh (South Africa): Mr. Chairman, please accept our congratulations on your assumption of the office of Chairman of the First Committee. You can count on the cooperation and the support of the South African delegation during the course of our forthcoming deliberations.

At the outset, may I extend Mr. Peter Goosen's apologies for not being able to be present here today to make the nomination for Rapporteur. Since the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Goosen has been reassigned to our Permanent Mission in Geneva, and while he will be attending this session of the First Committee, he will not be able to be here before the weekend. I am therefore reading a statement, on his behalf, for the nomination of the Rapporteur. His statement reads as follows:

> "The delegation of the Republic of South Africa has the honour to nominate Mr. Rajab Sukayri for the office of Rapporteur of the First Committee. Mr. Sukayri, who is currently Minister Plenipotentiary of the Mission of Jordan to the United Nations in New York, is eminently qualified for the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. He is working on a doctoral dissertation, the subject of which is nuclear-weapon-free zones, through Queen's University in Canada. Mr. Sukayri also has a Master's degree in political science from Carlton University in Canada and a Bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Jordan at Amman. Mr. Sukayri joined his country's foreign service in 1974, and in 1993 he was accepted as one of the United Nations Disarmament Fellows. He has widespread experience in the field of disarmament.
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> "The South African delegation consequently has great pleasure in nominating Mr. Sukayri for election to the important post of Rapporteur of the First Committee at the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly."

The Chairman: I thank the representative of South Africa for the nomination of Mr. Rajab Sukayri of Jordan for election to the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee.

Through him, I wish to convey to Mr. Peter Goosen the Committee's appreciation for the important contribution that he made to the work of the First Committee during the forty-ninth session as Rapporteur of the First Committee.

Members of the First Committee have just heard the representative of South Africa nominate Mr. Sukayri for the post of Rapporteur. As there are no other nominations, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to follow the same procedure as before and dispense with the secret ballot and declare Mr. Sukayri elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The Chairman: I wish to express my cordial congratulations to the representative of Jordan on his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee, and I invite him now to take the place reserved for him.

May I now draw the attention of members to rule 110 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which reads as follows:

> "Congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session — or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation — after all the officers of the Committee have been elected."

I hope that this rule will be applied and respected today and in the future, and I shall be personally grateful to delegations if they could also dispense with that customary passage at the beginning of their statements.

I now have the pleasure of calling upon the representative of Ecuador, Ambassador Luis Valencia Rodríguez, Chairman of the First Committee at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Valencia Rodríguez (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, I wish to comply with the obligation set forth in article 110 of the rules of procedure to which you referred, and I do so, may I say, not because it is laid down in the rules but because it affords me a welcome opportunity to convey to you, my friend and Chairman of this Committee on Disarmament and International Security, my most heartfelt congratulations. Let me add that we feel deeply gratified that you, with your long experience of the issues within the purview of the First Committee, should be presiding over our work, and we feel sure that you will lead us to the positive results that all of us expect from this fiftieth session, as we take stock of the 50 years of life of the United Nations.

Let me also extend my most heartfelt congratulations to Ambassador Antonio de Icaza of Mexico and to Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany, as well as to Mr. Sukayri of Jordan, who have been elected to the posts of Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively. Thanks to the diplomatic skill and ability so characteristic of them, the First Committee has a team of officers made up of able and dynamic men, and we feel sure that their efforts will prove decisive as we pursue the success that should culminate our task.

We know that the items before the Committee refer to central concerns such as peace, disarmament and international security, matters that affect the very survival of mankind. These have been considered from the very origins of the United Nations and while substantial progress has been made much still remains to be done to reach the goals we have set.

Convinced as we are of the great difficulties that we must overcome we would like to extend to you, Sir, and to the other members of the Bureau, from the very start of our activities, our fullest and most sincere cooperation.

Finally, allow me to express my deep appreciation of the kind words that have been spoken about my work as Chairman of the Committee during the forty-ninth session. I also extend these thanks to the representative of Austria.

The Chairman: On behalf of the officers of the Committee, as well as on my own behalf, I thank most deeply the representative of Ecuador, Ambassador Luis Valencia Rodriguez, a good friend of mine, for his kind and generous words addressed to the Vice-Chairmen, the Rapporteur and myself. I shall indeed depend on his valuable cooperation and advice in the discharge of my responsibilities.

I now call on the representative of Mexico, Mr. Pablo Macedo.

Mr. Macedo (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On behalf of the Mexican delegation I should like very warmly to express thanks first for the very generous words of the representative of Austria, and especially express thanks for the confidence that the members of the First Committee have placed in Ambassador de Icaza by electing him by acclamation to the vice-chairmanship. The Committee may be sure that Ambassador de Icaza will exert his best efforts to contribute to the success of our work.

The Chairman: I fully reciprocate the sentiments the representative of Mexico has just expressed.

I now call on the representative of Germany, Ambassador Hoffmann, who has also been elected a Vice-Chairman of the First Committee.

Mr. Hoffmann (Germany): I dare not congratulate you, Sir, after what you said earlier, but may I say that I am looking forward to working with you.

I should like to thank the Committee for electing me and to thank my Japanese colleagues for proposing me. We know that this fiftieth anniversary session of the United Nations is a very special one and I am sure we will all do our utmost to make this a very successful Committee. I will do my level best to contribute to this endeavour.

The Chairman: I am looking forward to working with the representative of Germany, Ambassador Hoffmann, as Vice-Chairman, and to his valuable assistance and cooperation in the discharge of my duties.

I now call on the representative of Jordan, Mr. Rajab Sukayri, the Committee's Rapporteur.

Mr. Sukayri (Jordan), Rapporteur of the First Committee: I should like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for congratulating me on my appointment as Rapporteur of the Committee. I should also like to thank my colleagues in the Bureau and wish them every success in their endeavours.

Having represented my country, Jordan, in this Committee for a few years, it is indeed a great honour for me personally to assume the post of Rapporteur, especially when this appointment comes at a time when the United Nations is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. My country, Jordan, and I personally have always attached great importance to the work of the Committee. While all General Assembly items are of significance, I share the belief that the agenda of the First Committee is the most prominent and enjoys a remarkable priority for all States Members of the United Nations.

On behalf of my delegation I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the members of the Asian Group, who endorsed my candidature for the post of Rapporteur of the Committee. I should also like to express my sincere appreciation to my dear colleague Mr. Bergh from South Africa, who nominated me on behalf of Mr. Goosen, last year's Rapporteur of the Committee.

I should also like to thank all the members of the Secretariat, but especially Mr. Kheradi, the Secretary of the First Committee, and Mr. Sattar.

Finally, I wish to thank all members of the Committee and assure them of my fullest cooperation.

The Chairman: I am certain that I express not only my own feelings but also those of all the members of the Committee when I say that we are sure that with his close

cooperation the work of the First Committee will be successful.

Having elected the officers, the Committee has concluded its consideration of the first item on its agenda.

Organization of work

The Chairman: I draw the attention of members of the Committee to document A/C.1/50/1 of 25 September 1995 containing a letter dated 22 September 1995 addressed to me by the President of the General Assembly informing me that the General Assembly at its third plenary meeting had decided to allocate 25 items to the First Committee for its consideration, namely agenda items 57 to 81 inclusive.

Before I proceed to provide the Committee with detailed information on the programme of work and timetable proposed, I should like to present some preliminary comments for the Committee's consideration.

As members are aware, in accordance with precedent I have undertaken consultations in New York with individual delegations and groups of delegations to facilitate an agreement on the programme of work and timetable, of course on an *ad referendum* basis. It may perhaps also be pertinent to indicate that although the purpose and scope of my discussions were mainly to cover the organizational aspects, considerable attention was also focused on substantive matters. I should like to indicate that this has indeed proved to be of great assistance in enabling me to put certain matters in proper perspective at the outset as we proceed to plan and organize our task at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

Members will also recall that, in accordance with established practice, the First Committee begins its substantive work only after the conclusion of the general debate in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly. Furthermore, the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, decided, on the recommendation of the General Committee, that all Main Committees should make every effort to complete their work by Friday, 1 December 1995. Taking this into account we should organize our programme in such a manner as to complete the work of the First Committee before the aforementioned closing date fixed by the General Assembly for all Main Committees.

The time-frame within which the First Committee will need to complete its substantive work, namely the period extending from 16 October to 22 November, has emerged logically and rather inevitably from the developments and consideration to which I have just referred.

At this stage, I should like to point out that last year the Committee utilized a total of 26 formal meetings and 8 informal meetings, and that in spite of the limitations, the First Committee was able to conclude its work successfully on Tuesday, 22 November — one day before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Accordingly, I believe that if we make a concerted and sincere effort to utilize our time in an effective and efficient manner, we can surely accomplish our task without any undue difficulties.

Turning now to the specifics of the Committee's organization of work, I wish to inform members that, on the basis of the extensive consultations held to date, we have arrived at the proposed programme of work and timetable contained in document A/C.1/50/2, which was considered and accepted *ad referendum* at the informal meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 10 October. I hope the Committee will be in a position to approve it today. In arriving at this proposal, I have been guided by past practice and precedents that have evolved during recent years, which I believe have enabled the First Committee to conduct its work in a smooth and efficient manner. Accordingly, members will observe that the consideration of items is divided into two phases: first, those items dealing with disarmament and international security — agenda items 57 to 78, and 80 and 81; and secondly, agenda item 79, relating to "Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee".

Furthermore, I should like to indicate that, owing to the large number of items and the complexity of the issues involved, there is a further demarcation into specific stages separating the short general debate from structured informal discussion of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach on those items, and from the consideration of, and action on, draft resolutions under those items. In addition, as in the past, precise deadlines have been introduced with respect to the submission of draft resolutions under the items in the two groupings.

I should like to emphasize that, wherever possible, I have set deadlines at the earliest possible stage in order to allow sufficient time for delegations to undertake the necessary consultations before the Committee proceeds to consider and to take action on the draft resolutions.

As indicated in the programme of work and timetable, the First Committee will begin its substantive work on Monday, 16 October, by holding a short general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items: items 57 to 78, and 80 and 81. A total of 10 meetings — from Monday, 16 October, to Friday, 20 October, and on Wednesday, 25 October, and Thursday, 26 October — will be allocated for this stage of the work of the Committee.

In this connection, I should like to urge delegations to kindly limit the time for delivery of their statements, if at all possible, to 10 minutes in order to enable all those delegations wishing to participate in the general debate to do so within the short time allocated for that purpose.

I should like also to invite those delegations wishing to participate in the general debate to kindly inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible in order to enable the Committee to fully and constructively utilize the time and conference facilities available to it. Moreover, it should be noted that the deadline for the closure of the list of speakers for the general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items will be Monday, 16 October, at 6 p.m.

As reflected in the programme of work and timetable, the First Committee's meeting on Friday, 27 October, will be devoted to a special meeting in observance of Disarmament Week.

From Monday, 30 October, to Friday, 3 November, the First Committee will hold informal structured discussions on specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach on disarmament and international security agenda items. A total of seven meetings will be set aside for this phase of the work of the Committee. In this connection, I should like to inform members that I and the Officers of the Committee, with the assistance and cooperation of the Secretariat, will provide the necessary information to members of the Committee well in advance regarding each subject and the time allocated for its consideration.

The deadline for submission of draft resolutions on all disarmament and international security agenda items would be Friday, 3 November, at 6 p.m. It is my intention to request the cooperation of members in adhering strictly to that deadline. Delegations are strongly encouraged to submit and introduce their draft resolutions as early as possible. Furthermore, it is imperative that delegations submit those draft resolutions that could entail programme budget implications as early as possible in order to enable the Secretariat to prepare the necessary statement of programme budget implications on time and also to enable the Committee to take action upon them with a view to meeting the mandatory deadline required for their submission to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. In this connection, I should like to state that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee need adequate time to review the programme budget implications of a draft resolution before the draft resolution can be acted upon by the Assembly.

On Monday, 6 November, the First Committee will hold an exchange of views on agenda item 79, entitled "Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee", and a total of two meetings will be devoted for that purpose. The deadline for submission of draft resolutions on agenda item 79 will be Tuesday, 7 November, at 6 p.m.

With regard to the next phase of our work, a period from Tuesday, 7 November, to Friday, 10 November, will be allocated for the consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under agenda items 57 to 81. A total of five meetings will be allocated for this phase of our work.

Finally, during the period from Monday, 13 November, to Wednesday, 22 November, the Committee will proceed to take action on all draft resolutions submitted under disarmament and international security agenda items, including item 79, related to the question of the rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee. A total of 10 meetings will be at the disposal of the Committee for that phase of its work.

In this connection, I should like to indicate that it is my intention to retain at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, as was the practice at previous sessions, the voting procedure of grouping draft resolutions by clusters, and I shall present specific proposals concerning this in due course.

On the basis of the proposed programme of work and timetable that I have just briefly outlined, the First Committee should be able to dispose of all the agenda items allocated to it within the time-frame to which I have referred.

It is my earnest hope that this programme of work, which was arrived at after due consultations and following past precedents, meets with the approval of the members of the Committee.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the First Committee adopts the programme of work and timetable contained in document A/C.1/50/2.

It was so decided.

The Chairman: I should now like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the relevant rules and recommendations of the General Assembly affecting the work of the Main Committees, including those contained in General Assembly decision 34/401.

In order to utilize fully the time and conference facilities made available to the Committee, I should like, with your cooperation, to convene the meetings of the Committee at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. sharp, and I shall similarly adjourn the meetings at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively. Allow me to emphasize strongly the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring the effective and orderly organization of our work and achieving economies for the world body.

At the same time, I wish to point out that I shall convene meetings of the Committee only if there are a sufficient number of speakers inscribed on the list of speakers to address the Committee, so that we may be able to make full use of the time and resources available in the most efficient and effective manner. I should like to add that the resources allocated to a meeting cancelled at an appropriate time may be released to other meetings held within or outside the framework of the First Committee.

I now call upon the Deputy Secretary of the First Committee, who wishes to make a short statement.

Mr. Sattar (Deputy Secretary of the Committee): I should like, with the indulgence of the members of the Committee, to draw the Committee's attention to the following additional points.

I should like to draw the attention of representatives to the fact that the General Assembly has again decided to depart at this session from the rule that one quarter of the members must be present before a meeting of a Main Committee may be declared open and debate permitted to proceed. The General Assembly made this recommendation on the understanding that such a departure from the rules did not involve any permanent change in the relevant provision of rule 108 of the rules of procedure pertaining to a quorum for the opening of meetings, whereby a majority of members must be present for any decision to be taken.

As indicated in the programme of work and timetable, the list of speakers for the general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items will be closed on Monday, 16 October, at 6 p.m. Several delegations have already indicated their intention to participate in the general debate, and the Secretariat has taken note of those requests. In order to enable the Committee to make full use of the time and conference facilities available to it, all delegations are kindly requested to inscribe their names on the list of speakers at their earliest convenience.

As you, Mr. Chairman, noted in your statement, members of the Committee are requested to submit draft resolutions, especially those draft resolutions with programme budget implications, as far in advance as possible in order to allow sufficient time for the preparation by the Secretariat of the estimate of expenditure and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, as well as to provide enough time for consultations. That would undoubtedly facilitate the Secretariat's task in processing the draft resolutions in order to make them available to the Committee as soon as possible.

In this connection I would request members of the Committee to note that draft resolutions and amendments, and the names of sponsors thereof, should be submitted to the secretariat of the Committee in writing to ensure accuracy and avoid any possible misunderstanding. Requests for the use of conference rooms for group meetings should also be submitted in writing as early as possible so that the necessary arrangements may be made in time.

I should like to draw the attention of all members of the Committee to General Assembly decision 34/401, particularly its provisions dealing with explanations of vote and the right of reply, namely, paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of that decision, which pertain to those particular issues.

I should also like to draw the Committee's attention to document A/C.1/50/INF.1, which will be issued within a few days. That document will list, for the purpose of information and ready reference, all documents before the First Committee issued as of 9 October 1995. That list will be updated as appropriate.

I would ask delegations to be so kind as to submit to the Secretariat as soon as possible the list of members of their delegation to the First Committee in order to enable

the Secretariat to circulate the Committee's membership list at as early a stage of the session as possible.

Delegations are requested to provide the conference officers with a minimum of 60 copies of all prepared statements for conference-servicing purposes. These, I would like to point out, are in addition to the copies required for any necessary general distribution among delegations.

I would like to inform members of the Committee that the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs will be hosting a workshop entitled "Micro-Disarmament: The new agenda for disarmament and arms control" on Wednesday, 8 November, from 3.30 to 6 p.m. in the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium. Topics to be discussed will include the collection of light weapons in internal-conflict situations; disarming and demobilizing ex-combatants and methods and means to prevent the transfer of surplus weapons. Speakers will be from the Centre for Disarmament Affairs and research institutes affiliated with the Centre. All delegations are invited to participate in this event.

Finally, I should like to give you, Mr. Chairman, as well as the other officers of the Committee and all delegations, the firmest assurances of the support and cooperation of the secretariat of the First Committee and, of course, of the Department of Political Affairs and Centre for Disarmament Affairs.

The Chairman: If no delegation wishes to make any comments or remarks at this stage, I propose to adjourn the meeting now. As decided, the Committee will begin its substantive work on Monday, 16 October, at 10 a.m. sharp.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.